

**268 Neptune Boulevard
Long Beach, NY 11561-3732**

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

January 24, 2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

In a few days, the Justice Department will make its final decision on the Microsoft settlement. It is my fervent hope that the government accept this settlement from Microsoft. I feel that Microsoft is giving away too much to the competition, but I completely support Microsoft's efforts to end this three-year legal war over antitrust behavior.

The federal government's actions toward Microsoft have been abominable. I am completely against government involvement in private business affairs. The freedom to innovate must be preserved if our country is to continue to be a world leader. This country's strength has been built from our free enterprise system. Further government involvement will continue to hurt our already weak economy.

As a real estate agent, I have exclusively used Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office for years and it has indeed contributed to the success of my small business. I also use Internet Explorer, my web browser of choice. Nothing on the market compares to Microsoft's software products. The competition can put their software on Windows and remove Microsoft's, but I will always use Microsoft's products.

I have confidence that Microsoft is doing what is in their best interest, to get out from under the hand of government involvement. I see nothing but positives for the economy and for the computer industry, once Microsoft is allowed to work entirely free from further government entanglements. Please do what I feel is best for the economy and the people of this great nation, confirm the Microsoft settlement.

Sincerely,



Maria Ferrer
